

Memorable Training on Tracking Museum Memorabilia

by Paul Villano, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School

Tim Taylor, Museum Technician at the U.S. Army Chaplain Museum, recently trained other museum staff from various Army museums on the new Army Historical Collection Accountability System (AHCAS) at the Southeast Army Museums AHCAS Training Course . AHCAS is a state-of-the-art tracking system to maintain a computer database of museum artifacts.



Photo Credit: Ms Darcie Fouste. South East Army Museums AHCAS Training Course. From left to right: Henry Howe (Finance Corps Museum), Buck Meeks (Ft. Stewart Museum), Tim Taylor (Chaplain Museum), Darcie Fouste (AG Corps Museum), and Delores Oplinger (Signal Corps Museum). Attendees not in the picture: Bessie Williams (Ft. Jackson Museum) and Scott Daubert (Ft. Stewart Museum)

Students included representatives from: the Fort Stewart Museum, the Signal Corps Museum, the Finance Corps Museum, the Adjutant General Corps Museum, and the Fort Jackson Museum. Training included the capabilities of the new database,

and familiarization with how the database works.

As items come into the museum, they are cataloged into the AHCAS database and each is given a local catalog number. That information then goes to the larger database at the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) where the item is given a central control number. There are more than 7,000 artifacts in the U.S. Army Chaplain Museum collection alone.

Mr. Taylor, who has been at the U.S. Army Chaplain Museum for three and a half years, remarked that the AHCAS training was very enlightening to some students. To get to really know the Army Historical Collection Accountability System, he said, one must get into the system and become familiar with it and the many shortcuts and improvements it offers over the former system. While there are

some limitations, since the new system is web-based (and thus slower), it is more detailed and is more effective than the previous system.

The new AHCAS is just the latest addition to the many improvements being made to the U.S. Army Chaplain Museum, including other equipment to preserve artifacts and archival items, and new exhibits such as a sound exhibit of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech, a Chaplain reciting General Patton's famous "weather" prayer, and [Bing Crosby singing "Soldiers of God", the official anthem of the U.S. Army Chaplaincy.](#)

The [U.S. Army Chaplain Museum](#) is located at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, 10100 Lee Road, Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The Museum Curator is Ms Marcia McManus, Phone: 803-751-8079 / 8827 (DSN: 734). Hours of the museum are: 9 am to 4 pm Monday - Friday (Closed Weekends and Federal Holidays)